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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/574,666	04/04/2006	**Mannalal Ramgopal Bajaj**	125139-00101	9001

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EXAMINER	
LEA, CHRISTOPHER RAYMOND	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
1619	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/574,666	BAJAJ ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Christopher R. Lea	1619	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *13 April 2009*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,7-10,12 and 16-18* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,7-10,12 and 16-18* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This application is a 371 (national stage application) of PCT/IN04/00342.

Receipt of Amendments/Remarks filed on April 13, 2009, is acknowledged. In response to Non-final office action dated December 11, 2008, applicant amended claims 1, 9-10, & 16-18, canceled claims 2-6 & 15, and added no new claims. Claims 1, 7-10, 12, 16-18 are pending. Claims 1, 7-10, 12, 16-18 are under examination.

Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous office actions are hereby withdrawn. The following rejections and/or objections are either reiterated or newly applied. All new rejections applied have been necessitated by applicant's amendment to the claims. They constitute the complete set presently being applied to the instant application.

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

The table on page 7 of the instant specification (which provides applicant's support for the amendment to claims 1 & 18 dated April 13, 2009) appears to contain errors. Based on the disclosure in the Example (beginning on page 6) the amounts of rabeprazole sodium (447g) and NaOH (16g) in the third column (20,000 vials) appear to be correct, giving a ratio of rabeprazole sodium to NaOH of 1:0.341. In the first column (per vial) the value for rabeprazole sodium is 20mg; however, 447gm divided by 20,000 vials gives 22.35mg/vial. This also changes the ratio from 1:0.341 to the claimed value of 1:0.359. While this table does provide support for the claim amendments, it is the

examiner's belief that a more correct value for the applicant to claim would be 1:0.341. This is further confused by the labeling of "Rabeprazole Sodium eq to Rabeprazole" which makes the reader think that the 20mg is the weight of rabeprazole in the vial; however, a vial containing 22.35mg or rabeprazole sodium would contain 21mg (not 20mg) of rabeprazole.

Appropriate correction or clarification is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 10 & 17 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 10 recites the limitation "said excipient" in lines 1-2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim as the word "excipient" does not appear in claim 1. Claim 17 is rejected for depending on claim 10 and likewise suffering from the same lack of antecedent basis. For the purposes of examination, the examiner will treat "said excipient" as referring to mannitol; however it would be remedial to amend the claim and remove the indefiniteness.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* **v.** *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 1, 7-10, 12, & 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doen et al. (US PreGrant Publication 2003/0191157).

Applicant claims

Applicant claims a drug delivery system containing rabeprazole sodium, mannitol, an alkaline compound and water for injection. Applicant further teaches a method of making such a system.

Determination of the scope and content of the prior art (MPEP 2141.01)

Doen et al. teach, as a whole, an injectable composition containing a benzimidazole.

Claims 1 & 7: Doen et al. teach an injectable composition containing a benzimidazole compound and an alkaline compound in a molar ratio of about 1:1 (paragraph 35). Doen et al. teach rabeprazole sodium among the benzimidazole compounds suitable for use in the injectable composition (paragraph 76). Doen et al teach that sodium hydroxide is the preferred alkaline compound suitable for use in the injectable composition (paragraph 86). Doen et al. teach that a saccharide may be added to the composition as an excipient and that mannitol is the preferred excipient suitable for use in the injectable composition (paragraph 91). Doen et al. teach water for injection as a solvent for dissolving (paragraph 99) or redissolving (paragraph 110) the composition.

Claim 8: Doen et al. teach the pH of the composition as about 9 to 11 in physiological saline (paragraph 99).

Claims 9 & 16: Doen et al. teach a composition that contains ~29% benzimidazole compound (Example 3, Table 4, paragraph 132).

Claims 10 & 17: Doen et al. teach a composition that contains ~58% excipient (Example 3, Table 4, paragraph 132).

Claims 18 & 12: Doen et al. teach adding a benzimidazole compound and mannitol to a sodium hydroxide solution and adding water for injection (paragraph 128, changing the order of adding ingredients is *prima facie* obvious, MPEP § 2144.04.IV.C). Doen et al. teach rabeprazole sodium among the benzimidazole compounds suitable for use in the injectable composition (paragraph 76). Doen et al. teach sterile filtering the solution (through 0.22 micron filter) and placing it in vials (paragraphs 128-9). Though Doen et al. are silent as to the exact size of the vial and its sterility, they teach the vial size is under 20 mL (paragraph 106) and it would have been obvious to a skilled artisan to put a sterile filtered solution into a sterile vial and bunging the vial to maintain sterility. Doen et al. are silent as to the temperature at which the steps are carried out; however, the maintaining a constant temperature is within the purview of the skilled artisan. Doen et al. teach lyophilizing the solution to form a powder (paragraph 132). The resultant composition meets the limitations of claim 12.

Ascertainment of the difference between the prior art and the claims (MPEP 2141.02)

The difference between the teachings of Doen et al. and the instant claims is that Doen et al. do not exemplify an embodiment of the invention using rabeprazole sodium as the benzimidazole and do not teach the claimed molar ratio.

Finding of *prima facie* obviousness
Rationale and Motivation (MPEP 2142-2143)

It would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to use rabeprazole sodium as the benzimidazole and adjust the molar ratio of alkaline to rabeprazole sodium and produce the instant invention. The skilled artisan would have been motivated to use rabeprazole sodium as the benzimidizole because Doen et al. teach that it is suitable for that use and it is within purview of the skilled artisan to select a known material based on its suitability for its intended use. Reading a list and selecting a known compound to meet known requirements is no more ingenious than selecting the last piece to put in the last opening in a jig-saw puzzle (see MPEP § 2144.07). The skilled artisan would have been motivated to adjust the ratio of rabeprazole sodium to alkaline compound because Doen et al. teaches that thought the preferred ratio is 1:1, "the amount of strong alkali can be decreased" (paragraph 88).

From the teachings of the references, it is apparent that one of ordinary skill in the art would have had a reasonable expectation of success in using rabeprazole sodium as the benzimidazole and adjusting the molar ratio of alkaline to rabeprazole sodium and producing the claimed invention. Therefore, the invention as a whole would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, as evidenced by the references, especially in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

In light of the forgoing discussion, one of ordinary skill in the art would have concluded that the subject matter defined by the instant claims would have been obvious within the meaning of 35 USC 103(a).

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed April 13, 2009, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the ratio of benzimidazole to alkali taught by Doen et al. is crucial to resolve the problems with previous injectable compositions containing benzimidazole, hence one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to change the ratio. This not found convincing for two reasons. First, the problem Doen et al. seek to overcome is the irritation associated with the high alkali content of previous compositions (paragraph 9). This teaching alone provides motivation for lowering the alkali content (and thereby lowering the ratio). Secondly, Doen et al. specifically state that "the amount of strong alkali can be decreased" (paragraph 88). Such a direct teaching/suggestion surely provides motivation to the skilled artisan to lower the alkali content. For these reasons the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is maintained.

Conclusion

Claims 1, 7-10, 12, & 16-18 are rejected. Specification objected to. No claims are allowed.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher R. Lea whose telephone number is (571) 270-5870. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30 ET.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Johann Richter can be reached on (571)272-0646. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CRL

/Johann R. Richter/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1616